invitation, to her house for this purpose, she brought with her amongst others the young wife of the Pope's nephew, Dame Elys de Turenne. After Mass, while Catherine was rapt in ecstasy, this young woman thought she was feigning, and, under pretence of kissing her feet, leant over and stabbed them through and through with a needle, or some other sharp instrument. Catherine remained insensible and motionless ; but, when she came to herself, she suffered such great pain from the wounds that she was scarcely able to walk, and her companions then, for the first time, perceived what had been done.[1] On another occasion, the mistress of one of the cardinals, either to gratify her curiosity or to test the Saint's intuition, insisted upon speaking with her, and made a great show of being a person of spiritual life ; but Catherine resolutely kept her face averted from her, and the unfortunate woman had to depart without even seeing her features.

We have, rather curiously, no record or tradition of Catherine coming into contact with any of the French cardinals, though, doubtless, she made the acquaintance personally of d'Estaing, whom she had previously known by letter. Perhaps, from the outset, she foresaw that the time would soon come for her to class all the rest together as *dimoni incarnati.* The political situation would have led her into direct intercourse with two of the Italians, Jacopo Orsini and Piero Corsini, the former of whom was the official protector (salaried by the Republic) of Siena at the papal court. Almost certainly, too, she met, and was doubtfully impressed by, the Cardinal of Aragon, Pedro de Luna, in whom the " servants of God " (to adopt the quaintly expressive phraseology of the age) put great hopes. We are told also of another prelate, not a cardinal, who at first opposed her, but was ultimately won over to her side—one who was to play a pre-eminent part in the drama of her latest days,

[1] *Eptstola Domni Stephani,* § n. Fra Bartolommeo, *Procgssut,* col. 1327, says that the injuries inflicted were more serious than Stefano describes, and that Catherine suffered much in consequence for many days.